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EXAMINER

LU, KUEN S

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2177

DATE MAILED: 04/02/2004

6

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/998,892

Applicant(s)

ROSNOW ET AL.

Examiner

Kuen S Lu

Art Unit

2177

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 03 December 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-42 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-42 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>5/06-19-02</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

1. Claims 16 and 35 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the enablement requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to enable one skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and/or use the invention. In the claims 16 and 35, "production plant" is introduced which was not described in the specification. The Examiner would assume production plant is a facility for manufacturing or producing goods. The Examiner interpret the term "production plant" as "product" in this office action.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

2. Claims 40 and 42 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as anticipated by Sandoval et al. (U.S. Publication 2003/0004766, hereafter "Sandoval").

As per claim 40, Sandoval further teaches the following:

“planning a plurality of project development phases for said project development, wherein said project development phases are capable of being displayed on display units of a plurality of browser-based clients of a computer system, and said clients each comprising a browser operable to communicate with a server which can retrieve stored information on previously submitted projects from computer database and pass the retrieved information to the display unit of the client from which the request was made; providing, for each of said project development phases, a set of task requirements necessary to complete each respective project development phase” Page 3, [0037]-[0044] and Table 1, where each phase of a project best practice is described and at Fig. 6 where status, timelines and assignee of tasks for each phase of the project best practice are displayed;

“providing for each task requirement a means for determining the completion status of that requirement at Fig. 6 where status, timelines and assignee of tasks for each phase of the project best practice are displayed;

“providing means for indicating the completion of each task requirement on the display unit” at Fig. 6 where name, responsible and open/closed status of the open issues are displayed;

“providing means for electronically messaging persons responsible for said tasks” at Fig. 6 where status, timelines and assignee of tasks for each phase of the project best practice are displayed and at Page 2, [0017] where utilizing web technology for project is suggested;

"providing gate means after each development phase which is in an open or closed state insofar as permitting the project to progress through the respective gate means, wherein each gate means is opened only when all the requirements for the given project development phase have been completed" at Figs. 1 and 6, Page 3, [0037]-[0044], Table 1 and Page 6, [0097]-[0101] where sequence for executing phases of a project is depicted and described, and beginning/ending/status and open/closed issues of each task in each phase is described.

As per claim 42, Sandoval teaches "means for changing the task requirements during project development" at Page 2, [0026] by minimizing non-value-added work, process time and manufacturing/development costs while maximizing efficiency.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1-3 and 9-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Page et al. (U.S. Patent 6,212,549, hereafter "Page") and in view of Sandoval et al. (U.S. Publication 2003/0004766, hereafter "Sandoval").

As per claim 1, Page teaches the following:

"a computer coupled for inter-communication to a plurality of stations from which respective users each have a browser-based interface with the computer" at Fig. 3, elements 304-310 where server computer (304) is connected to a network (310) and

col. 7, lines 37-48 by describing the server and client computers connected on the network, and at Fig. 2, element 236 and col. 6, line 64 – col. 7, line 7 by showing a custom viewing panel with a presentation format the most appropriate for the illustration of collaborative project management and communication software;

“store information in a database on the proposed new project” at col. 6, lines 12-14 by describing a project trackpoint database to store the trackpoints pertaining to a participating project;

“search for information on previous proposed projects stored in a database based on an inputted search request by a user” at Fig. 2, e232-236 and col. 6, lines 47-50 by searching the trackpoint database for trackpoints of a pertaining project by specifying a set of search criteria, and “evaluate the proposed new project using criteria including the search results for information on previously proposed projects to generate an evaluation document” at col. 6, lines 59-63 by describing a notification tool to notify project participants when a notification criteria met and at col. 6, lines 64 – col. 7, line 7 by reviewing the search result on the viewing panel where pre-selected data is displayed.

Page does specifically teach project idea managing or “receive idea information describing a proposed new project”.

However, Sandoval teaches project idea management at the Abstract and “receive idea information describing a proposed new project” at Figs. 2a-2c and Page 4, [0070] where the idea for a project is submitted in worksheet.

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the

applicant's invention was made to combine Sandoval's reference with Page's by including the project idea in the project trackpoints management because by doing so all phases of a project development, from an idea conceived to the product introduction to the market would have been best practices by a single software tool and a unique database.

As per claim 2, Page teaches "information is stored in an electronic file form that is key-word searchable and retrievable" at col. 6, lines 17-20 by using the unstructured file to replace the trackpoint database.

As per claim 3, Page teaches "information is stored in an electronic file form under categories of business that are key-word searchable and retrievable" at col. 7, lines 25-36 where database is of any sort, including file-based which participants of the project may search through.

As per claim 9, Page teaches "comprising means for displaying project report as printable browser-based documents" at Fig. 2, element 236 and col. 5, lines 24-30 by using a briefing book page or customized filter view for presenting status to users.

As per claim 10, Page teaches "comprising means displaying customized display screens for managerial review providing overview information for projects underway on the system" at Fig. 2, element 236 and col. 5, lines 24-30 by using a briefing book page or customized filter view for presenting status to users.

4. Claims 4-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Page et al. (U.S. Patent 6,212,549, hereafter "Page") and in view of Sandoval et al. (U.S.

Publication 2003/0004766, hereafter "Sandoval"), as applied to claims 1-3 and 9-11, and further in view of Kidder et al. (U.S. Publication 2004/0031030, hereafter "Kidder").

As per claim 4, the combined Page-Sandoval reference teaches a project development system as described in Item 1.

The combined reference does not specifically teach "controlling access of a given user to system resources based on the authenticating data supplied by the user when logging on", though Page teaches "authenticating means for differentiating between external users and internal users" at col. 7, lines 48-50 and 56-64 where firewall is provided for separating external and internal users.

However, Kidder teaches "controlling access of a given user to system resources based on the authenticating data supplied by the user when logging on" by user authentication at Fig. 11c which requires users of application to login.

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the applicant's invention was made to combine Kidder and Sandoval's references with Page's by requiring participants of a project development team to login the system because by doing so the un-authorized access to the system would have been further prevented and security of the system would have been further enhanced.

As per claim 5, the combined Page-Sandoval reference teaches a project development system as described in Item 1.

The combined reference does not specifically teach "comprising cookie means for developing a user profile of users".

However, Kidder teaches “comprising cookie means for developing a user profile of users” at Page 27, [0284] by providing user login and cookies as user profile information.

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the applicant's invention was made to combine Kidder and Sandoval's references with Page's by maintaining login and cookies information in the profile such that users login to the application or network would have been expedited and performance of Page's system would have been improved.

As per claim 6, Kidder further teaches “comprising a graphical user interface providing contextual help for users displayed as pop-up or scroll in thumbnail windows appearing on the user's display screen when a user moves a cursor arrow over and rests it on a button or reading in the screen” at Page 11, [0153]-[0154] where user is connected through GUI interface and a pop-up menu is utilized for mouse driven operation.

As per claim 7, Kidder further teaches “comprising means for built-in e-mail functionality capability using internet e-mail in which e-mail documents can be separately sent or received by a user” at Page 27, [0279]-[0280] and Page 97, [0895] where users can specify e-mail address and notify a process to send message or a page file to users, and “without the user needing to back out of the current screen being viewed” at Fig. 9c where Kidder teaches main application containing sub-windows of profile and configuration where user can scroll over the sub-windows without the need to back out from current to the next.

As per claim 8, Kidder teaches “means for permitting a user to select a name(s) of desired team member recipients of e-mail in a window without having to scroll out of a screen to send the e-mail” at Page 27, [0279]-[0280] and Page 97, [0895] where users can specify e-mail address and notify a process to send message or a page file to users, and “without the user needing to back out of the current screen being viewed” at Fig. 9c where Kidder teaches main application containing sub-windows of profile and configuration where user can scroll over the sub-windows without the need to back out from current to the next.

5. Claims 11-39 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Page et al. (U.S. Patent 6,212,549, hereafter “Page”) and in view of Sandoval et al. (U.S. Publication 2003/0004766, hereafter “Sandoval”), and further in view of Chappel et al. (U.S. Publication 2003/0101089, hereafter “Chappel”).

As per claims 11 and 29, Page teaches the following:

“a computer coupled for inter-communication to a plurality of stations from which respective users each have a browser-based interface with the computer” at Fig. 3, elements 304-310 where server computer (304) is connected to a network (310) and col. 7, lines 37-48 by describing the server and client computers connected on the network, and at Fig. 2, element 236 and col. 6, line 64 – col. 7, line 7 by showing a custom viewing panel with a presentation format the most appropriate for the illustration of collaborative project management and communication software;

“store information in a database on the proposed new project” at col. 6, lines 12-14 by describing a project trackpoint database to store the trackpoints pertaining to a participating project;

“search for information on previous proposed projects stored in a database based on an inputted search request by a user” at Fig. 2, e232-236 and col. 6, lines 47-50 by searching the trackpoint database for trackpoints of a pertaining project by specifying a set of search criteria, and “evaluate the proposed new project using criteria including the search results for information on previously proposed projects to generate an evaluation document” at col. 6, lines 59-63 by describing a notification tool to notify project participants when a notification criteria met and at col. 6, lines 64 – col. 7, line 7 by reviewing the search result on the viewing panel where pre-selected data is displayed;

“receive information on projected project timelines for tasks required to reach market introduction” at Fig. 2, element 236 and col. 7, lines 4-7 by presenting projected timeline information of the project on the briefing book to the user; and

“receive information on task assignments to personnel and associated timelines for completing them” at col. 11, lines 59-64 by using trackpoints to organize participants of the project for exchanging information on assignments while keeping a history of project attribute values with time at col. 11, lines 7-11.

Page does not specifically teach project idea managing or “receive idea information describing a proposed new project”.

However, Sandoval teaches project idea management at the Abstract and “receive idea information describing a proposed new project” at Figs. 2a-2c and Page 4, [0070] where the idea for a project is submitted in worksheet.

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the applicant's invention was made to combine Sandoval's reference with Page's by including the project idea in the project trackpoints management because by doing so all phases of a project development, from an idea conceived to the product introduction to the market would have been best practices by a single software tool and a unique database.

Sandoval further teaches the following:

“receive technical feasibility information and process the technical feasibility information to generate a technical feasibility document” at Page 1, [0013], lines 9-12 by analyzing the project best practice idea to confirm the best practice is a best practice and assessing the feasibility of the best practice and at Page 2, [0016], lines 6-12 by documenting the project best practice;

“generate a product proposal plan upon receiving at least portion of the idea evaluation information, technical feasibility information, risk assessment information, and projected timelines for the tasks required to reach market introduction information” at Figs. 6-7 and Page 7, [0135]-[139] by implementing and institutionalizing the best practice of the project;

“receive information on the acceptance or non-acceptance of the product proposal plan” at Page 8, [0149], lines 12-21 where acceptance practice is archived and

institutionalized while obsolete is for the non-acceptance for best practice of the project development;

“business planning software operational when executed by the processor to direct the processor to receive business planning information and process the business planning information to generate a business proposition and a capital allocation request, and to receive and process information on the acceptance or non-acceptance of the business proposition and the capital allocation request” at Page 6, [0107] by implementing the best practice of a project at phase 4 where sponsor’s agreement to provide the required support and resources is requested and at Page 6, [0109], lines 1-2 where the project steering team agrees with the practice and approves to proceed; and

“project launching software operational when executed by the processor to direct the processor to receive overall finalized product information and process the finalized product information, and to receive and process information on the acceptance or non-acceptance of the product launch” at Page 4, [0108]-[0109] the project steering team is requested with the agreement on identifying the programs to implement the practice and conduct a pilot for the best practice.

Concerning risk assessment information, the combined Sandoval-Page reference teaches processing feasibility information as described.

The combined reference does not specifically teach “receive risk assessment information and process the risk assessment information to generate a risk assessment document”.

However, Chappel teaches quantitatively assessing risk on a project associated with a change proposal and providing an objective risk assessment at Page 1, [0009].

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the applicant's invention was made to combine Chappel and Sandoval's references with Page's by conducting risk assessments through the progress of a project because by doing so the risk associating with changes of the project would have been timely assessed and proposal changes would have been promptly evaluated in order to guarantee a smooth execution of the project from phase to phase.

As per claims and 31, Sandoval further teaches "the project idea managing software is operational to direct the processor to further perform, between the tasks of receiving the technical feasibility and risk assessment information, a task of receiving and processing consumer feedback information obtained via surveying potential customers on the concept of the proposed project" at Page 1, [0005] by surveying and benchmarking to identify the best practice processes among all existing processes or alternatives and at Page 3, [0033] by placing the project best practice on the web for being assessed, conducting periodic reviews and reconciling the differences between the business group deployment metrics.

As per claims 13 and 32, Sandoval further teaches "managing software is operational to direct the processor to further perform, between the tasks of receiving the technical feasibility and risk assessment information, a task of receiving and processing input forecast of potential volume of said new project" at Page 1, [0005] by surveying and

benchmarking to identify the best practice processes among all existing processes or alternatives.

As per claims 14 and 33, Sandoval further teaches "business planning software is operational to direct the processor to further perform a task of receiving and processing consumer testing information on product prototypes associated with the new project" at Page 7, [0123]-[0133] by conducting a pilot to test the best practice and using the feedback from the pilot, and making revisions to the project best practice.

As per claims 15 and 34, Sandoval further teaches "the project launching software is operational to direct the processor to further perform a task of receiving and processing customer authorization information for product market introduction" at Page 7, [0136]-[0137] when the pilot is completed and the project practice is institutionalized to become a way of doing business at the target company, including the product introduction to the market.

As per claims 16 and 35, Sandoval further teaches "project launching software is operational to direct the processor to further perform tasks of receiving and processing initial production plant information, and to receive and process information on the acceptance or non-acceptance of the initial production plant information" at Page 4, [0108]-[0109] the project steering team is requested with the agreement on identifying the programs to implement the practice and conduct a pilot for the best practice.

As per claim 17, Sandova further teaches "the project launching software is operational to direct the processor to further perform tasks of receiving and processing resource release information to generate a resource release document, and to receive

and process information on the acceptance or non-acceptance of the resource release” at Page 1, [0014] by at least one executive sponsor to approve and commit for the at least one executive sponsor processes the executive authority to exercise organization resources necessary to develop and implement the best practice idea.

As per claim 18, Page teaches “at least one of the work stations comprises a desktop computer, a laptop computer, a computer terminal, or an Internet appliance” at Fig. 3, where elements 306-308 are client computers.

As per claims 19 and 36, Page further teaches “a database including memory storing identification, task assignment, scheduling and outcome information on previously proposed projects” at Fig. 2, where element 202 is the project trackpoint database and at col. 15, lines 9-13 where computer readable medium includes cdrom, disk or the like to store various project information, and “newly proposed projects, wherein said database is associated with a web server, and the browser-enabled stations being operable to communicate a request to the server to access said project information, and the server being operable, upon receipt of the request, to retrieve and pass the requested information to station to be displayed by the browser” at col. 7, lines 56-64 where internet access is provided with web-server and browser-enabled station for the briefing book page.

As per claim 20, Page teaches “browser software residing on the stations, and said computer including a web server through which users enter a web home page or portal for the system upon sending a system URL via HTTP to the web server” at col. 7, lines 56-64 where internet access is provided for accessing URL via HTTP to the web server.

As per claims 21 and 38, Sandoval further teaches "comprising task control software operational to permit an administrator of the project to make additions, changes or deletions in the task assignments during implementation of a project on the system" at Page 3, [0032] by process owner team to administer, facilitate and track the development and implementation of the project best practices according to the best practice process.

As per claims 22 and 37, Sandoval further teaches "comprising task control software operational to permit an administrator of the project to make changes in timelines associated with task assignments during implementation of a project on the system" at Page 5, [0084] by making changes or modifications to the project worksheets.

As per claims 23 and 39, Page teaches "comprising task control software operational to permit an administrator of the project to select from among optional task assignments during the receiving of the information on task assignments" at col. 11, lines 59-64 by flexibly organizing project participants to exchange information and/or work collaborative on tasks or subtasks.

As per claim 24, Sandoval further teaches "task control software operational to permit an administrator of the project to add task assignments after the receiving of the information on task assignments and during implementation of a project on the system" at Page 6, [0106] by obtaining necessary approval and support to proceed with the development of project.

As per claim 25, Sandoval further teaches "document storing and retrieval software for maintaining documents generated during project development which are applicable

to given tasks" at Page 1, [0016] by utilizing the project worksheets for the identification, selection, development and deployment of the project best practice.

As per claim 26 Sandoval further teaches "comprising document storing and retrieval software for maintaining document templates applicable to tasks" at at Page 1, [0016] by utilizing the project worksheets for the identification, selection, development and deployment of the project best practice.

As per claim 27, Page teaches "comprising project information generating software for displaying task information and timelines on a browser-enabled user station for a selected project" at Fig. 6 and col. 7, lines 56-64 where task status and timeline of the project best practice is displayed on worksheet and where internet access is provided.

As per claim, 28, Page teaches "comprising project information generating software for displaying task information and timelines on a browser-enabled user station for a selected project, further including electronic mail software providing an interface with electronic mail associated with the selected project" at Fig. 6 and col. 7, lines 56-64 where task status and timeline of the project best practice is displayed on worksheet and where internet access is provided for accessing web, including web email.

As per claim 30, Sandoval further teaches "evaluating step further comprises assigning at least one person responsible for conducting the comparison of the electronic search results for information retrieved on previously proposed projects with the newly proposed project, and receiving information into the computer indicating whether the proposed new project is accepted or not-accepted based on said comparison" at Page 4, [0108]-[0109] the project steering team is requested with the

agreement on identifying the programs to implement the practice and conduct a pilot for the best practice.

6. Claim 41 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sandoval et al. (U.S. Publication 2003/0004766, hereafter "Sandoval"), as applied to claims 40 and 42, and in view of Kidder et al. (U.S. Publication 2004/0031030, hereafter "Kidder").

As per claim 41, Sandoval teaches a project best practice as described in Item 2.

Sandoval does not specifically teach "means to approve access and access levels of users to the computer".

However, Kidder teaches controlling the access of a given user to system resources based on the authenticating data supplied by the user when logging on by user authentication at Fig. 11c which requires users of application to login.

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the applicant's invention was made to combine Kidder and Sandoval's references with Page's by requiring participants of a project development team to login the system because by doing so the un-authorized access to the system would have been further prevented and security of the system would have been further enhanced.

Conclusions

7. The prior art made of record

- A. U.S. Patent 6,212,549
- B. U.S. Publication 2003/0004766
- C. U.S. Publication 2004/0031030
- D. U.S. Publication 2003/0101089

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

U. Oracle® Project Resource Management, Implementation and
Administration Guide, Release 1.0, May, 2001

E. U.S. Patent 6,815,638

F. U.S. Publication 2002/0040469

V. U.S. Patent Provisional Application Serial Number 60/277925, 3/22/2001

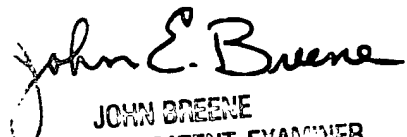
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kuen S Lu whose telephone number is 703-305-4894.

The examiner can normally be reached on 8 AM to 5 PM, Monday through Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Breene can be reached on 703-305-9790. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-305-3900.

Kuen S Lu
Patent Examiner
March 22, 2004


JOHN BREENE
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100